



The Bethel Courier.

VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 2

SUMMER, 1984

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Eva M. Bean stands near the grave of Amos Hastings, one of the founders of Bethel.

SOCIETY TO REPRINT EAST BETHEL ROAD

Through the cooperation of the family of Eva Bean, the Society is pleased to announce plans to reprint her classic local history, *East Bethel Road*, which first appeared twenty five years ago in 1959. The 450 page book will be entirely reprinted along with numerous maps and photographs. Containing a wealth of genealogical data along with surveys of each house and building site in the eastern and southern portions of the town, the book also includes histories of Bethel churches, Gould Academy and important developments in the town's past. It is expected to become available late in 1984.

The 1984 edition will also include about one hundred extra pages bringing the family histories and house sites surveys up to date. It will also feature an essay about changes in East Bethel in the last twenty five years by East Bethel native, Society Director Stanley R. Howe. An expanded index by Agnes H. Haines will also be included and the dust jacket will be a color copy of Susie Kimball's watercolor painting of Middle Intervale looking east in 1880.

Eva Marion Bean was born in East Bethel in 1895. She graduated from Gould Academy in 1913, Colby College in 1917 and received her R.N. in 1922 from Presbyterian Hospital in New York. Long interested in local history, she spent more than five years researching and writing *East Bethel Road*. She also was the founder and first secretary of the Bethel Historical Society organized in 1966. She died in 1969. Her notebooks, many of which were assembled during the writing of *East Bethel Road*, are now in the Society archives which were named in her honor in 1976.

THE BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INCORPORATED AND THE DR. MOSES MASON HOUSE: THE FIRST TEN YEARS

This year marks the first decade since the Bethel Historical Society established its official headquarters in the Dr. Moses Mason House. This structure, one of Bethel's most historic, was built in 1813 and was for over fifty years the home of a distinguished citizen of the town. Dr. Moses Mason (1789-1866) was the town's first postmaster, and served in many capacities of public trust including two terms as United States Congressman during the administration of President Andrew Jackson.

The Dr. Moses Mason House, fully restored by the William Bingham II Trust for Charity, was given by the Trust to the Society on January 4, 1974. The Society then set up a museum in the portion of the building that was the home of Doctor and Mrs. Mason. In the former barn and shed portions of the building, the headquarters for the historical society were established including an office, meeting room, storage space, exhibit areas and kitchen.

The dedication of the building was scheduled for July 10. In the meantime, members of the Society were busy establishing the museum and setting up procedures for operation of the facility. In May, 1974 a curator was hired. Stanley Russell Howe, then a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Maine at Orono in Canadian studies with a M.A. in American history from the University of Connecticut, was selected by the Trustees and began his duties in the latter part of that month. Howe was a descendant of some of Bethel's oldest families, several of whom were in town at the time of Indian Raid of 1781, including Benjamin Russell Sr., who became the first town clerk, and Amos Hastings in whose barn the first town meeting was held in 1796.

With the addition of an administrator, co-ordination of Society activities could be better accomplished. Gifts began to come forth for the museum, most from long-time Bethel families. Heading what was then called the Furnishing Committee (today known as the Museum Committee) was Floribel Haines, charter and later an honorary member. She was ably assisted in this work by members of the committee who included Rosalind Chapman,

(Continued on page 2)

The new edition to be printed on acid-free paper is being offered at a special pre-publication discount of \$35 plus shipping of \$2.25 and tax of \$1.75 for residents of the State of Maine. After publication the cost will be \$45. Because of the great demand anticipated for this book and the limited number of copies to be offered for sale, anyone interested in obtaining one should place an order as soon as possible. Inquiries should be directed to the Society, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217 or call (207) 824-2908 for further information. Checks should be made out to the Bethel Historical Society.

Suzanne Fiske and Nell Valentine. They and others worked many long hours visiting homes to see what might be appropriate to reflect the life and time of the Masons. Aiding in this cause was Edith Eddy, who for a time wrote the news releases for the Society. Shortly after the arrival of Howe on the scene, Mrs. Eddy suggested that he handle the Society's publicity and this responsibility was added to his duties.

The museum was actually opened to visitors for the first time in June, 1974. During that first season, which did not end until October 15, some 761 visitors toured the museum. In that first season the museum was also open in the morning from 10:30 to noon as well as from 2 to 4 p.m. Experience dictated the dropping of the morning hours, extending those in the afternoon and opening by appointment throughout the year.

The dedication of the building on July 10, 1974 was a gala affair presided over by the president Margaret Joy Tibbetts, who has served as chairman of the trustees for the past ten years and been instrumental in much of the Society's progress. At the dedication Miss Tibbetts expressed gratitude for the gift of the Dr. Moses Mason House from the Bingham Trustees represented by Dr. Sidney W. Davidson, who had inspired the restoration in the first place and doggedly seen it through to completion. Music was provided by a quartet from the Portland Symphony and a buffet luncheon served to over 100 guests and dignitaries. Featured speaker for the event was Robert Damm, then Director of the Maine State Museum who had been one of the original consultants for the project. A special edition of the *Citizen*, the work of over twenty-five contributors, also appeared on July 10 commemorating the bicentenary of Bethel's settlement and the dedication of the Dr. Mason House.

Also in July, 1974 the Society sponsored a donor's reception to honor all those who had made the furnishing of the museum possible plus those who had been especially generous with gifts of photographs, memorabilia or artifacts for the archival collections.

In 1975 the Society received funding from the Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums and the National Endowment for the Humanities for a major outreach exhibit entitled "The Family Farm" which was originally set up in the meeting room of the Dr. Moses Mason House and later placed in the lobby of the Bethel Savings Bank. A very popular exhibit, it also included a descriptive booklet.

In 1975 the Society initiated its first annual Heritage Day held each year since on February 22, featuring a wide variety of craft demonstrations and exhibits.

An important gift during 1975 was a scale model of the Hanover ferry constructed by Frank Worcester, Lisa Ramsay, Pamela Morton, and Martha Stearns. This model has continued to be particularly popular with school groups and well illustrates the often difficult logistics of crossing the Androscoggin in the early years of the nineteenth century.

The highlight of 1975 for many was the presentation of a Certificate of Commendation to the Society for "an effective program of preservation, publications, and education" from the American Association for State and Local History at the regional meeting held in Northampton, Massachusetts. This award was particularly significant since the Society had been in the Dr. Moses Mason House little more than a year when this award was made.

In 1976 the Society celebrated its ten years of existence by dedicating, with appropriate ceremonies that included Marius Peladeau, then Project Director of the Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums and Earle G. Shettleworth of the

Maine Historic Preservation Commission, a newly constructed archival facility in memory of its founder Eva M. Bean (1895-1969). The room, made possible with funds received from the William Bingham II Trust for Charity, quickly became an important center for research in genealogy, local history and technical information. For several years the Society received funds from the Maine State Commission on the Arts and Humanities to micro-film newspapers relating to Bethel including the *Oxford Observer*, *Oxford Democrat*, *Oxford Advertiser*, *Bethel Courier*, *Bethel News* and *Bethel Citizen*. Later, census records of Oxford County, town records and *Among the Clouds*, a newspaper published on the summit of Mount Washington, were added.

The Society hosted the 1976 observance of the national bicentennial with a wide variety of activities under the general chairmanship of Robert Keniston with Stanley Howe as secretary-treasurer.

A major accomplishment of this year was the fencing of Bartlett Cemetery, a Civic Action Project of the U.S. Forest Service under the guidance of Donald Feeney assisted by Society life member Robert D. Hastings. The posts were furnished by the Forest Service and the fence wire purchased with funds established by the late Eva Bean, who wrote *East Bethel Road* to raise money for the fencing of this historical burial ground. This cemetery also received Bethel's first historic marker, one of a series to be placed by the Society designating important sites throughout Bethel.

A booklet "Made in Bethel," largely the work of Catherine Newell of the Education and Research Committee, was published in 1976 to accompany a bicentennial exhibit with the same title.

A significant step was taken also during 1976 with the start of publication of the *Bethel Courier* (named after the Bethel newspaper published between 1858 and 1861) which includes articles on local history, society news, program notes and a membership application. With the appearance of the first issue in December, 1976, membership climbed steadily. In 1980 the *Courier's* schedule of publication increased from semi-annual to quarterly.

During this period the Society began offering courses in White Mountain and Bethel history as well as others in genealogy and crafts. These have traditionally been popular and a record was set when one of the White Mountain history courses taught by historian Randall H. Bennett drew over seventy-five persons.

The year 1977 brought the news that the Broad Street Historic District had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Not only is the area a remarkable survival of a variety of architectural styles but it was home for two United States Congressmen, a justice of the Maine Supreme Court and the site of Dr. John G. Gehring's remarkable clinic which attracted a national clientele. The designation, officially recognized by a plaque sponsored by the Society, was observed in July, 1978 with an appropriate ceremony featuring Senator Edmund S. Muskie, a sponsor of the legislation that established the national register system in 1966, as guest speaker. A model of Broad Street in 1880 was made by members of the Education and Research Committee. A booklet, "Bethel's Broad Street: A Walking Tour" was also published in 1977.

Due to the increasing value of the collections of the Society, the trustees in 1977 voted to install a security system in the Dr. Moses Mason House. This was another step in the professionalization of the operations of the Society.

In the 1970s the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) provided funding for a number of individuals to complete important Society projects including the indexing of the *Oxford Democrat* from 1833 to 1892, the *Bethel News* from

1895 to 1908 and the *Bethel Citizen* from 1908 to 1938, as well as a comprehensive cemetery index for Bethel and other surrounding towns. In the 1980s the very limited staffing has been augmented by funding of positions from the Senior Community Service Project and New England Green Thumb. Throughout this entire period, the Society has been successful in obtaining students to work in the museum store under the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program.

The Society published its first calendar in 1979 featuring historical photographs for each month from its collection. Published each year, it has continued to be a popular attraction for Christmas giving.

Also during 1979 the Society participated with other Oxford County towns in the Outside-In project funded with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to the Maine State Museum. Sheila McDonald, project director from the Maine State Museum, assisted members of the Education and Research Committee in assembling an exhibit documenting the effect of outside influences upon Bethel.

In 1978 the first Dr. Moses Mason Award was made for the best essay on local history written by a student at Gould Academy or Telstar Regional High School. Scott Wight of Telstar was the first recipient for his essay "The 1936 Flood: What Happened in Newry."

During the 1970s the Society hosted a number of regional workshops including "Raising Money and Other Resources" sponsored by the Maine State Museum and one on volunteerism sponsored by the society with a grant from the Maine State Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

The Society headquarters has been used by state and regional groups for conferences including the annual meetings of the Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums in 1976 and 1983, Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation in 1979 and the Maine Old Cemetery Association in 1982. In addition, the society has also hosted family reunion groups including the Maine Kimballs in 1983 and the National Holt Association in 1984.

Important exhibits besides those already mentioned were those featuring the work of John J. Enneking, who summered in the Bethel area, and the painting "Sunset at Bethel" by Aaron Draper Shattuck loaned by Vassar College Gallery of Art. The Enneking exhibit was featured during the summer of 1979 and the Shattuck painting was in Bethel for the summer season in 1980.

In 1979 the Society published a cook book reflecting many local recipes highlighted by photographs of domestic scenes from the Society's collections. This has been such a popular item that

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EDITOR'S CORNER

Enclosed with this issue of the *Courier* is a flyer on the summer exhibit which focuses on the folk art portraits of Alphin and Roxanna Twitchell who lived in the Mayville section of Bethel during the nineteenth century. Given to the Society by Roxanne Twitchell Sly of Brooklin, Maine, a descendant, they recently received conservation treatment partially funded with a grant from the Maine State Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Several artifacts relating to the lives of the Twitchells have been loaned by Mrs. Sly for the duration of the exhibit. The Society is indeed grateful for her interest and cooperation in focusing on the lives of two members of one of Bethel's founding families. SRH

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Undoubtedly the most ambitious projects undertaken by the Society this year is the publication of another edition of Eva Bean's *East Bethel Road*. It is certainly an important Society effort and is being made possible through the cooperation and exertions of many people. As this is my final column as president, I certainly wish to thank everyone on behalf of the Society who is (or has) worked on this project. In addition, my three years as president have been fulfilling ones and as we reflect on ten years in the Dr. Moses Mason House I would like to express the deepest appreciation to all who have made this success and progress possible.

Donald G. Bennett

DR. MOSES MASON BIRTHDAY PARTY

The 195th anniversary of Dr. Moses Mason's birth was observed with festivities taking place in his home. The Doctor and his wife Agnes were again ably portrayed by Ernest and Betty Perkins who greeted visitors at the front door and made them welcome much as the Masons might have done in the nineteenth century. A festive air was provided by Alva Morrison who played his fiddle and accordion throughout the afternoon. In the meeting room Arlene Brown, Edna York and Mary Valentine took turns playing old-time piano favorites. Audrey Brooks demonstrated stenciling in the work room. Upstairs Dick Hastings worked on her needlepoint. In the dining room Helen Morton sketched an apple blossom. In the meeting room Agnes Haines produced baskets and in the parlor Ruth Wight quilted. Floribel Haines and Barbara Douglass served old fashioned strawberry punch from the winter kitchen and birthday cake was sliced in the dining room by Mrs. Mason (Betty Perkins).

Dedication of Plaque
Honoring Eva M. Bean (1895-1969)

Bartlett Cemetery, East Bethel
August 26, 1984

3 p.m.

Reception, East Bethel Church
4 p.m.

FAYE TAYLOR MEMORIAL ART SHOW

The fifth annual Faye Taylor Memorial Art show was held on May 26 at the Dr. Moses Mason House with over one hundred students from throughout SAD #44 entering the show. Prizes in the Junior Division (Grades 1-6) went to Victor Hart, Grade 4, Crescent Park, first; Billi-Jo Robinson, Grade 3, Crescent Park, second; Scott Emery, Grade 5, Andover Elementary, third. Senior Division (Grades 7-12) James Gorman, Grade 11, Telstar Regional High School, first and second; Brent Bachelder, Grade 11, Telstar, third. Helen Morton won the Faye Taylor Memorial Award in the adult competition. Jean Anton received Honorable Mention. Judges included Donald G. Bennett, Elizabeth Mason Carter and Randall H. Bennett. Also part of the show this year were paintings of the late Faye Taylor (1908-1972) loaned by her son Kent. These included "Maines Mountain" (1969), "The Mirror" (1970), "September Harvest" (1965). Mrs. Taylor was a well-known local artist who was also a founder of the Society.

the supply has dwindled to the point that a second edition may be necessary in the next few years.

Also in 1979 the Society began hosting "Gould Through the Years," a slide show for Gould Academy alumni based on the use of old photographs detailing the history of the Academy and focusing particularly on the reunion classes. This presentation has been made annually by Society Director Stanley Howe, Gould class of 1962.

A special committee was formed in 1979 to work on genealogical inquiries received from the public and to undertake a long-term society project, the genealogical survey of the entire town. Data taken from this survey will eventually be incorporated in the town history planned for the future.

Society Director Stanley R. Howe was selected in 1980 for the prestigious Seminar for Historical Administration at Colonial Williamsburg sponsored jointly by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, American Association of Museums, American Association for State and Local History and Colonial Williamsburg. The month-long seminar provided exposure to a wide range of issues facing administrators of historical sites.

An annual tradition was born in 1980 with the summer festival called Sudbury Canada Days, which focuses on old-time pastimes and features a wide variety of craft demonstrations and exhibits, a croquet tournament, horseshoe pitching, a children's parade and an old-time variety show. Also begun this year was the annual Faye Taylor Memorial Art Show and the Doctor Moses Mason birthday celebration.

One of the most ambitious undertakings of 1981 was the bicentenary of New England's last Indian raid, which occurred at Bethel (then known as Sudbury Canada) on August 3, 1781. A wide variety of events were held during the two-day observance under the honorary chairmanship of retired Lt. General James D. Alger with several thousand persons attending. A special Indian Raid '81 edition of the *Courier* was published as well as new editions of "Molly Ockett" and "Dr. Moses Mason and His House."

Also of interest during this year was the appearance of a new edition of Dr. William B. Lapham's *History of Bethel* through the cooperation of the Society with New England History Press of Somersworth, New Hampshire. A new expanded index prepared by Agnes H. Haines was substituted for the original and an essay by Society Director Stanley R. Howe provided some perspective on Lapham and Bethel history since 1891.

In the 1980s additional events were held in the Dr. Moses Mason House meeting room including several film series such as the highly acclaimed "The Christians" series and two harpsichord recitals by the noted Audley Green, who has a summer home in Lynchville near Bethel.

Responding to the growing size of the Society's membership, the trustees in 1981 recommended and the general membership approved the addition of two more trustees to the board, raising the number at-large from three to five. These, along with the four offices, formed a new nine-member board to govern the Society.

The tenth anniversary of incorporation was duly noted in June, 1981 with several of the original incorporators being recognized at the monthly meeting with corsages and boutonnières. The incorporators who were still living at this time included E.M. Quinn, Nell Valentine, Elizabeth Mason Carter, John T. Grover and Christine Grover.

In 1982 the Society assisted with the founding of the Oxford County League of Historical Societies which now meets quarterly

throughout Oxford County. Also in that year, the Oxford County Historic Resource Survey, sponsored by the Society with a grant from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the National Park Service, was re-funded and work toward a publication of its findings begun.

In 1982 as well, the Society received from the Institute of Museum Services a Museum Assessment Program (MAP) grant to provide funding for an independent evaluator sponsored by the American Association of Museums to review the Society's operations in preparation for possible accreditation by the AAM. The report issued at the end of this process praised the Society for its "strong and unique reputation in Maine for its scholarly research, its publications, and academic involvement."

An important gift during 1982 was the presentation of a portrait of Dr. Mason by Russell and Elsie Carpenter of Winchester, Massachusetts. This portrait by R.P. Tolman was believed painted in about 1835 and to be a copy of the Chester Harding work that hangs in the parlor of the museum. Also part of this gift by the Carpenters was the conservation work performed by the Williamstown Regional Art Conservation Laboratory, Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts. Also given during this year were portraits of Alphin and Roxanna Twitchell of Bethel, painted in 1835 in the folk tradition by an unknown artist. These were the gift of a Twitchell descendant Roxanne Twitchell Sly of Brooklin, Maine. These were sent to a conservation laboratory in 1983 for restoration work partially funded with a grant from the Maine State Commission on the Arts and Humanities. In 1984 the portraits were reframed and became a central feature of the summer exhibit program.

In 1983 the Society participated in "Maine Before Statehood," a state-wide program of exhibits, lectures and symposia funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Bethel was selected as an inland site for the focus of a portion of the exhibit "Doorways to Statehood: Maine Towns, 1783-1820." The exhibit also focused on ten representative men and women throughout the state. Dr. Moses Mason was selected as one of these and the Society loaned artifacts associated with the Doctor for the year-long exhibition which opened at York Institute, Saco and subsequently moved to the Bangor Historical Society, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Payson Gallery, Westbrook College, Portland and the Colby College Art Gallery.

A formally organized annual endowment campaign was initiated in 1983 to expand the permanent funds of the Society in order to address future needs of space and staffing. This was done in an attempt to broaden the base of support beyond the original gift of \$250,000 from the William Bingham II Trust for Charity, which supports current operations.

Also in 1983 legislation long supported by the Society was passed to take effect January 1, 1984 which exempted historical societies and museums from the payment of sales tax for purchases of goods and services.

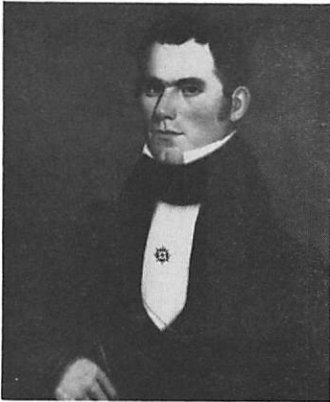
A course "Grass Roots History" was offered by the Society to Telstar Regional High school students in the fall of 1983 which focused on historical sources available in the Society's collection and in the surrounding community. This was but one of several programs developed through the years for area schools.

In 1984 the Society commenced one of its major challenges, the reprinting of Eva Bean's *East Bethel Road*. This project is taking much of its attention during this tenth anniversary summer.

Throughout all this discussion of the Society, tribute is due all the volunteers who have been responsible for much of its success during the past decade. In assisting with museum tours, serving on committees, helping with Society events, working with collec-

Folk Art Portraits

ALPHIN and ROXANNA TWITCHELL



Alphin Twitchell (1804-1886)



Roxanna Twitchell (1816-1892)

Portraits done in the folk tradition by an unknown artist about 1835.

The Twitchell name is synonymous with Bethel's early development. An original proprietor of the town was Joseph Twitchell of Sherbourne, Massachusetts who never settled in the District of Maine. His son Eleazer, however, built the first grist mill and donated the land for a common in what is today Bethel, then known as Sudbury Canada. For generations members of the Twitchell family dominated the affairs of the town. This exhibit focuses upon two members of that important Bethel family, Alphin and his wife Roxanna.

Alphin Twitchell was born in Bethel in 1804, the son of Ezra and grandson of Joseph. He was a farmer, businessman and cattle dealer living in the Mayville section of town, north of the Androscoggin River. He was also a Selectman, town agent and a trustee of Gould Academy from 1845 to 1858. In 1835 he married his first cousin, Roxanna, daughter of Thaddeus and also Joseph's grandchild. They had seven children, most of whom survived to adulthood. Alphin Twitchell, described by William B. Lapham in his *History of Bethel* as "a good citizen and highly respected," died in 1886 at the age of 82 and his wife in 1892, age 76. They are buried in Riverside Cemetery in Mayville.

The exhibit will be open from July 1 through mid-October each afternoon, Monday through Friday, 1-4 p.m. It will also be open every weekend, July 1 through Labor Day, Saturday and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Other times are available by appointment. Please call (207) 824-2908 or write Dr. Moses Mason Museum, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217.

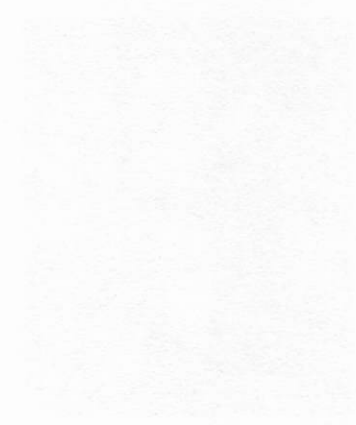
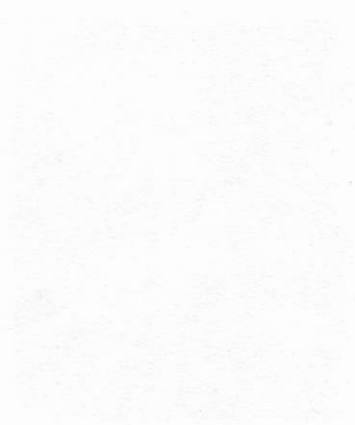
Special appreciation is due Mrs. Roxanne Twitchell Sly of Brooklin, Maine for the loan of artifacts associated with the lives of her ancestors, Alphin and Roxanna Twitchell.



Homestead of Alphin and Roxanna Twitchell,
Mayville section of Bethel, 1886,
artist unknown
Courtesy of Roxanne Twitchell Sly

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tions, and writing articles for the newsletter, the Society has indeed been fortunate by the number and quality of its volunteers. More than one hundred of them assist in one or more Society projects each year. These dedicated individuals are vital to the Society's success.

It is clear through all this discussion that the Society has been a significant asset to the community it serves, primarily as an educational center. Its presence has also ensured that interest in historical preservation and all things historical is enhanced. As a dynamic organization dedicated to community betterment, the Society has also played a useful role in assisting community groups in advancing the interests of the Bethel area. All of these functions seem likely to expand in the future.

In summary, the past ten years have been a decade of growth and development for the Society. Membership has grown ten fold, a permanent endowment fund has been established, and a wide variety of programs begun. Much more needs to be done. Endowment funds must continue to grow to allow for expansions in both staff and facilities. New members must be sought. Even more volunteers are needed. Additional student programs need to be developed. More work is necessary in research and publication. But as one reflects upon the past ten years of Society developments, it certainly appears to be a fulfilling era of change and progress. This statement should not be a sign of complacency but seen as the challenge for the future.

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY 1966-1984

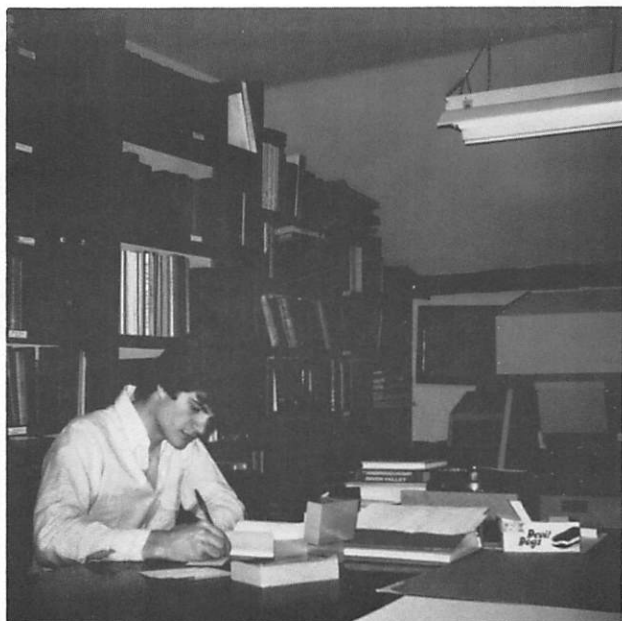
President: Charles Heywood, 1966-68; Dale Thurston, 1968-69; John T. Grover, 1969-72; E. M. Quinn, 1972-73; Barbara H. Merrill, 1973; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, 1973-76; John J. Willard Jr., 1976-78; Catherine Newell, 1978-1981; Donald G. Bennett, 1981-

Vice-President: Dale Thurston, 1966-68; E. M. Quinn, 1969-72; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, 1973; John J. Willard Jr., 1973-76; Catherine Newell, 1976-78; Donald G. Bennett, 1978-81; Alden T. Kennett, 1981-

Secretary: Eva M. Bean, 1966-69; Christine Grover, 1969-74; Maxine Brown, 1974-75; Judith Haskell, 1975-78; Edith Eaton Eddy, 1978-81; Mary C. Keniston, 1981-

Treasurer: Faye Taylor, 1966-71; Robert B. Marshall, 1971-72; Gwendolyn Holt, 1972-74; Pearline McMillin, 1974-76; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, 1976-79; E. Louise Lincoln, 1979-82; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, 1982-

Trustees: Elizabeth Mason Carter, 1970-73; Nell Valentine, 1970-72; Norman O. Mills, 1970-72; John T. Grover, 1972-75; Rosalind R. Chapman, 1972-74; E. M. Quinn, 1973-76; Floribel Haines, 1974-77; Donald B. Eddy, 1975-78; Pearline McMillin, 1976-79; Suzanne Fiske, 1977-1980; Judith E. Haskell, 1978-81; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, 1979-82; Helen Morton, 1980-83; Edith Eaton Eddy, 1981-83; Catherine Newell, 1981- ; Ronald Snyder, 1981- ; Willard Wight, 1982- ; Persis Post, 1983- ; Ruth Wight, 1983-



Jeffrey R. Plummer, class of 1984, Gould Academy, winner of the Dr. Moses Mason Award, works on an independent study project in the Society's Eva Bean Research Room.

PLUMMER WINS DR. MOSES MASON AWARD

Jeffrey R. Plummer, class of 1984, Gould Academy, won the 1984 Dr. Moses Mason Award for his essay "John A. Poor: Railroad Promoter." This award, consisting of a certificate and a \$100 savings bond is given each year to the student at Gould Academy or Telstar Regional High School who, in the opinion of the judges, writes the best essay on local history.

Runner-up this year was Susan Gould of Telstar who wrote a history of Chandler Hill. She received a letter of commendation from President Donald G. Bennett and a \$50 savings bond.

Honorable mention this year went to Michelle Marston, also of Telstar, who received a letter from President Bennett as well as a local history book for her paper on the 1936 flood in Oxford County.

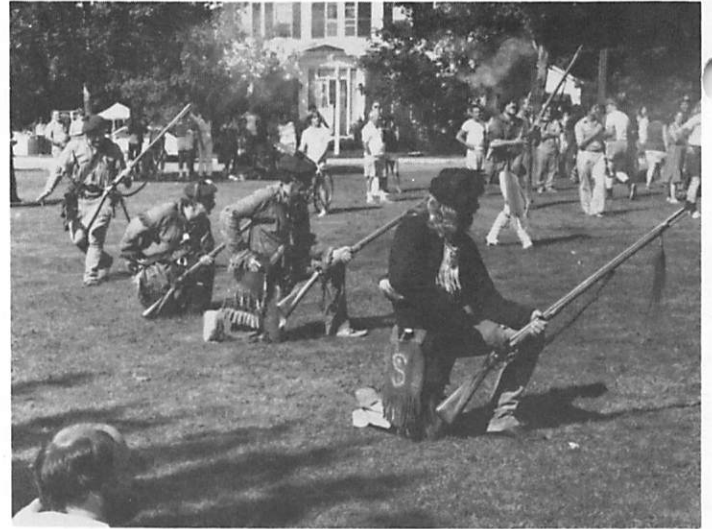


Stairway of the Dr. Moses Mason House showing Rufus Porter murals.

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST DECADE: THE BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INCORPORATED AND THE DOCTOR MOSES MASON HOUSE



Basketmaking, Agnes Haines, Heritage Day, 1981



Militia mock battle, Indian Raid Bicentennial, 1981



White Mountain History Course, Philbrook Farm, 1977, left to right: Carroll Valentine, Nell Valentine, Randall Bennett, instructor, Frances Harding



Tenth anniversary observance, Bethel Historical Society president Margaret Joy Tibbetts (center) with speakers Marius Peladeau (left) and Earle G. Shettleworth Jr., 1976



Discussion of farming in a bygone era, eighty-five year old Albert Skillings talks to students of Crescent Park School in the meeting room of the Dr. Moses Mason House, 1981



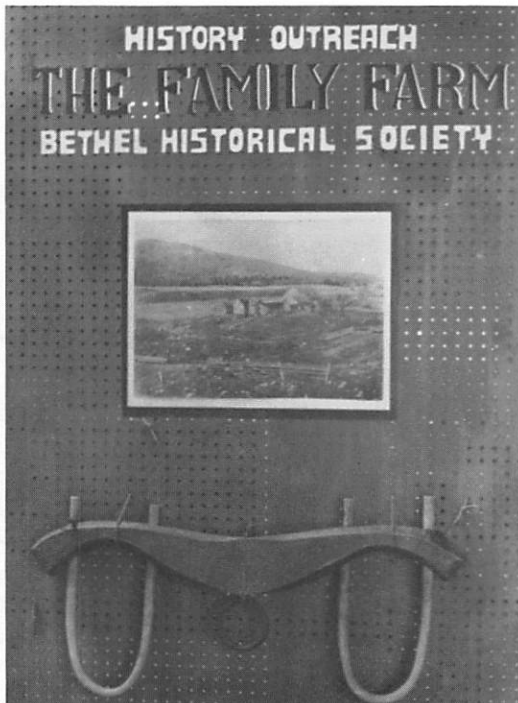
Observance of the 125th anniversary of railroad service to Bethel, March 10, 1976, left to right: Merton T. Brown Jr., Town Clerk; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Society president; Norman Ness Jr., Town Manager of Bethel; John Davis, Railroad Historian



Dr. Moses Mason House, 1974



Annual Meeting, 1978, left to right: Donald G. Bennett, Vice President; Judith Haskell, Trustee; Edith Eaton Eddy, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees; Catherine Newell, President.



Panel from "The Family Farm" exhibit, 1975



"Outside-In" Exhibit, 1979, Society member Norris Brown examines a hotel register while Donald Bennett looks on.

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) free admission to the museum | (5) quarterly newsletter |
| (2) special discounts at museum store | (6) reduced course fees |
| (3) preferred rate for meeting room rental | (7) voting rights in the Society |
| (4) special library and archival privileges | (8) special invitations to Society occasions |

(Please Print)

Name

Address

.....

Signature

Please check appropriate category and send your remittance to: Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217

-----Sustaining \$2.50 (Individual)

-----Contributing \$10.00

-----Patron \$25.00

-----Students (under 18 years) \$1.00

-----Life over 55 years \$50.00 single

-----Life over 55 years \$75.00 couple

-----Life under 55 years \$100.00 single

-----Life under 55 years \$150.00 couple

OUR READERS WRITE

Life member Edith K. Robertson wrote of her late mother Mabel Bean Robertson, also a Society member: "When Mabel was ready for her freshman year at Gould Academy, her grandfather gave her a horse of her own. It was four miles from the farm (on Chandler Hill) to Bethel Village and she rode back and forth all her freshman year. Her sophomore year she went to Mayville and worked her board and room at the home of Baker Thurston. Her junior year she worked at Holden Hall as a waitress. In her senior year she stayed at Holden Hall through the efforts of her father who contracted with the school to cut and haul twenty five cords of hardwood for the wood furnace which heated the building."

Society member David D. Thompson reflecting on living in Bethel since 1942: "... if one word would symbolize Bethel, I think it might well be the word 'lumber', because every day in all those years huge trucks loaded with lumber enter the town from just about every point of the compass, en route to various mills in the village itself or to Berlin or Rumford or Livermore Falls. In years passed, the Androscoggin River did much of the carrying of logs large and small, I remember, but now it's trucks, and pulp for papers and magazines and materials for houses and barns and factories in addition to wooden novelties and spools and dowels are the result."

Society member Ruth H. Watson of East Sullivan, Maine: "Have just finished reading your most interesting article on Bethel in the Civil War (Volume VII, Number 4). That required a lot of research. As usual I read every word."

Gwilym R. Roberts, College Historian, University of Maine at Farmington: "Just a line to let you know how much I enjoyed your article on Bethel during the Civil War — it was excellently done."

IN MEMORIAM

Died, May 7, 1984 Francis D. Mills of Farmington, native of West Bethel and generous donor to the Society.

Died, May 26, 1984, Cecil Conrad of Bethel, a member of the Society since 1966 and a faithful volunteer and generous donor.

Died, May 30, 1984, John E. Grover of Bethel, life member since 1971 and generous donor.

The Bethel Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Bethel, Maine 04217



SUDBURY CANADA DAYS
AUGUST 11 & 12, 1984
Dr. Moses Mason House

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NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Ralph and Beatrice Burris of Bethel are retired.

Theodore and Kay Chadbourne of Bethel. Mr. Chadbourne is president of P.H. Chadbourne & Company of Bethel and Mrs. Chadbourne is a member of the SAD #44 Board of Directors.

Marguerite Hall McNally of Hampden is a Bethel native and graduated from Gould Academy in 1934.

Dorothy G. Schmidt of Augusta is a native of West Bethel and a generous donor to the Society.

Basil Seguin of Bryant Pond is the owner of Moll Ockett's Antiques.

BOOK NOTES

Hartford In Pictures 1984 (Hartford, Maine: Hartford Heritage Literary Club, 1984), 56 pp., \$10 paper.

A group of Hartford, Maine citizens headed by Irma Jack and Lorraine Leighton Greig, members of the Hartford Heritage Literary Club, have collected a remarkable set of photographs and published them in a fifty six page booklet. Incorporated in 1790 (two years after Bethel), Hartford, Maine (formerly known as Butterfield #7) is in many ways a typical small Oxford County town with neighborhood schools, wood processing mills and large barns. What makes this book important is the quality of the photographs, many of which depict ordinary life in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. For those interested in vernacular architecture this book will be of particular interest. The Hartford Heritage Literary Club is to be commended for making these photographs available in such a convenient form.

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